

1 What is claimed is:

- 2 1. A method for acquiring remote high resolution photographs by a user using a  
3 streaming video as a view-finder, comprising:  
4 connecting a remote device to one or more photo-video acquisition devices,  
5 wherein the remote device is controlled by the user;  
6 acquiring a high resolution photograph from the remote device using a video  
7 streamed from the one or more photo-video acquisition devices as a view-finder; and  
8 processing and transmitting the video and the high resolution photograph obtained  
9 from the one or more photo-video acquisition devices, using a joint video and still image  
10 pipeline.  
11 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the connecting step includes connecting the  
12 remote device to the one or more photo-video acquisition devices through a network.  
13 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the connecting step includes connecting the  
14 remote device to the one or more photo-video acquisition devices through a point-to-point  
15 connection.  
16 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
17 requesting payment information from a user who wishes to control the one or  
18 more photo-video acquisition devices; and  
19 enabling the user to control the one or more photo-video acquisition devices from  
20 the remote device.  
21 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising verifying the payment information  
22 submitted by the user before enabling the user to control the one or more photo-video  
23 acquisition devices.  
24 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the acquiring step includes using a queue system  
25 to allow multiple users to control the one or more photo-video acquisition devices.  
26 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the video and the high  
27 resolution photograph in a storage on a network server.  
28 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the video and the high  
29 resolution photograph to the user.  
30 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising posting the video and the high  
31 resolution photograph on a web page.  
32 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising  
33 requesting payment information from a user who wishes to download the video  
34 and the high resolution photograph from the web page; and

1 enabling the user to download the video and the high resolution photograph onto  
2 the remote device.

3 11. An apparatus for acquiring remote high resolution photographs by a user using a  
4 streaming video as a view-finder, comprising:

5 one or more photo-video acquisition devices capable of acquiring videos and high  
6 resolution photographs, wherein the videos and the high resolution photographs can be  
7 processed and transmitted using a joint video and still image pipeline;

8 a network linked to the one or more photo-video acquisition devices; and

9 a remote device capable of logging onto the one or more photo-video acquisition  
10 devices through the network and acquiring the high resolution photographs, using videos  
11 streamed from the one or more photo-video acquisition devices as a view-finder.

12 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the user can control the one or more photo-  
13 video acquisition devices from the remote device through the network or other  
14 communication channels.

15 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the one or more photo-video acquisition  
16 devices include a queue system that allows multiple users to control the one or more  
17 photo-video acquisition devices.

18 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the network includes a storage on a network  
19 server to store the videos and the high resolution photographs.

20 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the videos and the high resolution  
21 photographs are posted on a web page.

22 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the photo-video acquisition devices are remote  
23 video cameras.

24 17. A method for a user to acquire remote high resolution photographs using a  
25 streaming video as a view-finder, comprising:

26 logging onto one or more photo-video acquisition devices from a remote device  
27 through a network;

28 acquiring a high resolution photograph from the remote device, using a video  
29 streamed from the one or more photo-video acquisition devices as a view-finder, wherein  
30 video and the high resolution photograph obtained from the one or more photo-video  
31 acquisition devices are processed and transmitted using a joint video and still image  
32 pipeline; and

33 receiving the high resolution photograph from the network.

34 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

1           selecting a photo-video acquisition device from the one or more photo-video  
2 acquisition devices for acquiring the high resolution photograph;  
3           submitting payment information to control the selected photo-video acquisition  
4 device through the network; and  
5           controlling the selected photo-video acquisition device from the remote device  
6 through the network.  
7 19.    The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
8           storing the high resolution photograph in a local storage; and  
9           printing the high resolution photograph on a printer at home.  
10 20.    The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving the video from the network  
11 at home.